

of the Legislature, the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee heard this bill on February 6 and the proponents of the measure included myself, Dennis Gramms, the Director of the Department of Environmental Control, Dale Hutton, the Department of Environmental Control, and John Rochford, the State Budget Administrator. There was an opponent at the hearing, Jerry Prazen, on behalf of the City of Omaha, and Mr. Prazen asked that the bill recognize all existing means that Omaha had under state law that they could identify that could fund waste water treatment in Omaha. Since there was no intention on the bill's score in any way to limit any existing mechanism that the city had, we had no difficulty in arriving at that. So, the amendment to 311 that the committee adopted simply says nothing in this section, talking about this bill, shall prohibit the provision of loans or loans pursuant to the Conservation Corporation Act to a municipality for the construction, development, rehabilitation, operation and maintenance and improvement of waste water treatment facilities. That was to recognize that the conservation corporation could make loans of this nature, and to make sure that there was nothing that was meant to prohibit any existing rules or powers that cities had. For that reason, I would urge the adoption of the amendment, and I'll explain the bill and it's meaning to the Legislature.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please vote, ladies and gentlemen. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Now back to the bill, Senator Landis, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. In the last several years the Legislature has given money, state appropriations, to cities to help build waste water treatment facilities. That's because the federal government, which has a large program to assist cities, has, as part of its obligations, an element of state match. If cities want the big federal dollars, they have to come up with some state match. And we've filled in the gaps. As a matter of fact, in the last biennium the amount was \$2.2 million of state money to help cities build waste water treatments and leverage federal grants big dollars that cities could get. Well the feds